

We Claim:

1. (Currently amended) A hybrid communication terminal - alarm system, for enabling access to a communication network and alarming an environmental hazard comprising:

a communication terminal for connection to ~~[[a]]~~ said communication network;

~~means~~ a multi-sensor block for monitoring the environment and providing a sensor reading signal indicative of the a level of an environmental agent;

an alarm mode controller for operating said communication terminal in an alarm mode according to said sensor reading signal.

2. (Currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a power turn-on unit for permanently powering said ~~means for monitoring~~ multi-sensor block.

3. (Currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a power ~~on/of~~ on/off switch for turning the power to said system 'on' and a power turn-on unit for operating said alarm mode controller in a sleep power mode whenever said on/off switch is 'off'.

4. (Currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said alarm mode controller comprises:

a memory for storing a threshold for indicating a hazardous level of said environmental agent;

a comparator unit for receiving said sensor reading signal from said ~~means for monitoring~~ multi-sensor block and said threshold from said memory and providing an alarm signal whenever said threshold is violated; and

an alarm driver for receiving said alarm signal and initiating an alarm mode of operation sequence.

5. (Currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 4, further comprising an alarm block ~~for alarming said threshold violation~~.

6. (Currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said alarm block provides is one of an audio, video and mechanical alarm.

7. (Currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said alarm driver triggers transmission of a distress signal ~~by~~ for establishing an automatic connection over said network using said communication terminal on receipt of said alarm signal.

8. (Currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~means for monitoring~~ multi-sensor block includes is one of a smoke detector, a chemical agents detector, a radiation detector and a biological agent detector.

9. (Currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~means for monitoring~~ multi-sensor block comprises a plurality of ~~detectors~~ sensors, each for monitoring presence of a specific environmental agent.

10. (Currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~means for monitoring~~ the multi-sensor block is a biosensor array.

11. (Currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~means for monitoring~~ multi-sensor block is a digital sensor.

12. (Currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~means for monitoring~~ multi-sensor block is an analog sensor, further comprising an analog-to-digital converter for formatting said sensor reading signal ~~into a digital sensor reading~~.

13. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 7 wherein said communication terminal comprises a communication functions control unit for generating said distress signal, and encoding said distress signal into an outgoing message using a communication protocol, and a transmitter for sending said message over said communication network to a specified location.

14. (Currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1 42, wherein said communication terminal includes a receiver for enabling reception of incoming messages over said network.

15. (Currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1 42, wherein said communication terminal further comprises a keyboard for enabling transmission of alphanumeric messages over said network and a display for enabling reception of video messages over said network.

16. (Currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said communication ~~device~~ terminal is one of a cellular telephone, a fixed telephone, a cordless telephone, a pager and a fax machine.

17. (Currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said communication ~~device~~ terminal is one of a personal digital assistant, a laptop and a desktop computer equipped with a communication functions control unit for generating a distress signal, and encoding said distress signal into an outgoing message using a communication protocol, and a transmitter for sending said message over said communication network to a specified location.

18. (Currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~means for monitoring~~ multi-sensor block comprises a plurality of sensors (Sn) and a multiplexer for ~~extending the~~ providing the sensor reading signal from any sensor of the plurality of sensors on ~~input/output capabilities while using~~ a single input of said alarm mode controller.

19. (Currently amended) A method for alarming presence of a hazardous agent, comprising:

equipping a communication terminal with ~~means for monitoring~~ a multi-sensor block for monitoring the environment and ~~for~~ generating a sensor reading signal indicative of the level of ~~an~~ a hazardous agent; and

further equipping said communication terminal with an alarm mode controller for continuously comparing said sensor reading signal with a threshold, detecting a threshold violation and initiating an alarm mode protocol.

20. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said alarm mode protocol performs the steps of:

turning 'on' said communication terminal if turned 'off';

interrupting normal operation mode of said communication terminal if performing a normal communication routine;

transmitting a distress signal by establishing an automatic connection over ~~said a communication~~ network using said communication ~~terminal~~ terminal; and providing an alarm to indicate said threshold violation.

21. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein said distress signal includes an identification of said communication terminal and an information on the present location of said communication terminal.

22. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 20, further comprising indicating the gravity of said threshold violation.

23. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said ~~means for monitoring are~~ multi-sensor block is permanently powered, while said alarm mode controller operates in a sleep power mode whenever said communication terminal is turned 'off'.

24. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising receiving instructions over said communication network regarding immediate protective measures for minimizing the effects of said hazardous agent.

25. (Currently amended) A method for alarming presence of a hazardous agent, comprising:

equipping a communication terminal with ~~means for detecting a~~ multi-sensor block for detecting ~~an~~ a dangerous level of an environmental agent; and further equipping said communication terminal with an alarm mode controller for initiating an alarm mode protocol in response to a the dangerous level of ~~an hazardous~~ the environmental agent.

26. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 25, further comprising:

equipping said ~~means for detecting~~ multi-sensor block with a plurality of detectors specialized for measuring and alarming presence of a plurality of respective environmental agents;

multiplexing a plurality of detector measurements on an input of said alarm mode controller; and

reading sequentially said detector measurements to detect any dangerous level of any of said environmental agents.